

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1 1. A method for automatically detecting unsolicited electronic mail
2 from a mailer and automatically notifying facilitators of the mailer of the unsolicited
3 electronic mail, the method comprising:
4 receiving an electronic mail message from the mailer;
5 automatically determining the electronic mail message is probably
6 unsolicited;
7 checking for an open relay in routing information of a header of the
8 electronic mail message;
9 determining a facilitating party of the mailer; and
10 automatically reporting information relating to the electronic mail message
11 to the facilitating party.

1 2. The method for automatically detecting unsolicited electronic mail
2 from the mailer and automatically notifying facilitators of the mailer of the unsolicited
3 electronic mail as recited in claim 1, wherein the facilitating party comprises at least one
4 of the following:
5 a first internet service provider (ISP) associated with an origin of the
6 message;
7 an upstream provider for the first ISP;
8 a second ISP associated with the reply address;
9 a third ISP associated with an e-mail address in a body of the electronic
10 mail message;
11 a host of a web site referenced in the body of the electronic mail message;
12 and
13 the open relay in the routing information.

1 3. The method for automatically detecting unsolicited electronic mail
2 from the mailer and automatically notifying facilitators of the mailer of the unsolicited
3 electronic mail as recited in claim 1, determining the electronic mail message is
4 unsolicited based upon receipt of the electronic mail message.

1 4. The method for automatically detecting unsolicited electronic mail
2 from the mailer and automatically notifying facilitators of the mailer of the unsolicited

3 electronic mail as recited in claim 1, further comprising baiting harvest of an electronic
4 mail address corresponding the electronic mail message.

1 5. The method for automatically detecting unsolicited electronic mail
2 from the mailer and automatically notifying facilitators of the mailer of the unsolicited
3 electronic mail as recited in claim 4, wherein the baiting the harvest comprises at least
4 one of:
5 embedding the electronic mail address in a web page;
6 applying for an account with a web site using the electronic mail address;
7 participating in an online auction with the electronic mail address;
8 posting to a newsgroup or message board with the electronic mail address;
9 and
10 posting to a public forum with the electronic mail address.

1 6. The method for automatically detecting unsolicited electronic mail
2 from the mailer and automatically notifying facilitators of the mailer of the unsolicited
3 electronic mail as recited in claim 1, wherein the determining the facilitating party
4 comprises determining at a protocol level which Internet protocol (IP) address sent the
5 electronic mail message to the open relay.

1 7. The method for automatically detecting unsolicited electronic mail
2 from the mailer and automatically notifying facilitators of the mailer of the unsolicited
3 electronic mail as recited in claim 1, further comprising:
4 determining an address of the mailer; and
5 blocking electronic mail messages from the address for a predetermined
6 period of time.

1 8. The method for automatically detecting unsolicited electronic mail
2 from the mailer and automatically notifying facilitators of the mailer of the unsolicited
3 electronic mail as recited in claim 1, wherein the automatically reporting information
4 comprises sending a report comprising information on a plurality of electronic mail
5 messages.

1 9. The method for automatically detecting unsolicited electronic mail
2 from the mailer and automatically notifying facilitators of the mailer of the unsolicited

1 13. The method for automatically detecting unsolicited electronic mail
2 from the mailer and automatically notifying facilitators of the mailer of the unsolicited
3 electronic mail as recited in claim 11, wherein the determining the facilitating party
4 comprises determining at a protocol level which Internet protocol (IP) address sent the
5 electronic mail message to an open relay.

1 14. The method for automatically detecting unsolicited electronic mail
2 from the mailer and automatically notifying facilitators of the mailer of the unsolicited
3 electronic mail as recited in claim 11, further comprising blocking electronic mail
4 messages from the source address for a predetermined period of time.

1 15. The method for automatically detecting unsolicited electronic mail
2 from the mailer and automatically notifying facilitators of the mailer of the unsolicited
3 electronic mail as recited in claim 11, wherein the automatically reporting information
4 comprises sending a report comprising information on a plurality of electronic mail
5 messages.

1 16. The method for automatically detecting unsolicited electronic mail
2 from the mailer and automatically notifying facilitators of the mailer of the unsolicited
3 electronic mail as recited in claim 11, wherein the automatically reporting information
4 comprises periodically sending a report to the facilitating party.

1 17. A method for automatically processing e-mail messages from a
2 sender, the method comprising:
3 receiving a first message;
4 determining a first fingerprint indicative of the first message;
5 storing the fingerprint;
6 receiving a second message;
7 determining a second fingerprint indicative of the second message;
8 comparing the first fingerprint to the second fingerprint;
9 determining the sender is an unsolicited mailer based upon the comparing
10 the first fingerprint to the second fingerprint;
11 analyzing routing information of a header of the second message;
12 determining a facilitating party from the routing information; and
13 automatically notifying the facilitating party.

1 18. The method for automatically processing e-mail messages from a
2 mailer as recited in claim 17, further comprising embedding an e-mail address in the
3 Internet that has no legitimate purpose and is harvested by the unsolicited mailer.

1 19. The method for automatically processing e-mail messages from a
2 mailer as recited in claim 17, wherein the determining the facilitating party comprises
3 determining at a protocol level which Internet protocol (IP) address sent the second
4 message to an open relay.

1 20. The method for automatically processing e-mail messages from a
2 mailer as recited in claim 17, wherein the automatically notifying the facilitating party
3 comprises sending a report comprising information on a plurality of e-mail messages.

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